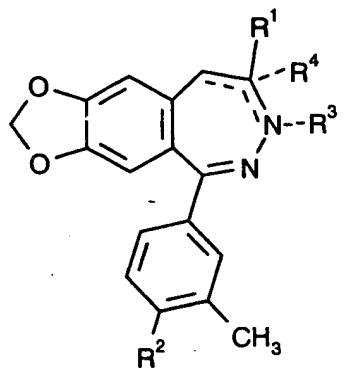
CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 27 canceled.

Claim 28 (Previously presented) A compound of the Formula (I)



I

wherein

R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NNHCONH_2$ or $-CO-NR^5R^6$, wherein

R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^2 is nitro or amino;

R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or $-CONR^7R^8$ wherein

R^7 and R^8 independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^4 is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

the dotted lines have the following meanings:

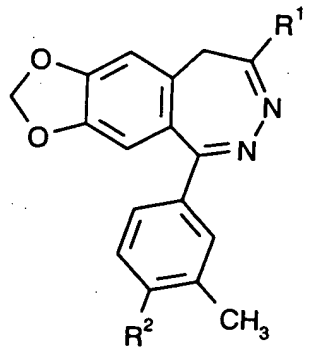
if R^3 and R^4 are not present, the bond between positions C^8 and C^9 is a single bond, and the bond between positions C^8 and N^7 is a double bond;

if R^3 and R^4 are present, the bonds between positions C^8 and C^9 and between positions C^8 and N^7 are single bonds; and

if R^3 is present and R^4 is missing, the bond between positions C^8 and C^9 is a double bond and the bond between positions C^8 and N^7 is a single bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously presented) A compound of the Formula (IA)



IA

wherein

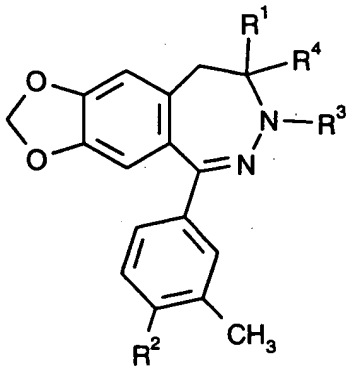
R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NNHCONH_2$ or $-CO-NR^5R^6$, wherein

R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms; and

R^2 is nitro or amino;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously presented) A compound of the Formula (IB)



IB

wherein

R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NNHCONH_2$ or $-CO-NR^5R^6$, wherein

R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^2 is nitro or amino;

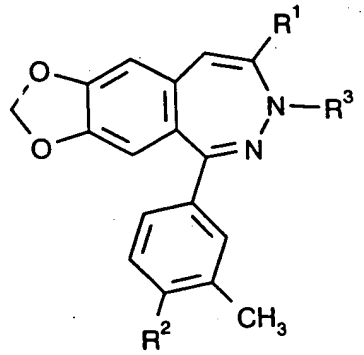
R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or $-CONR^7R^8$ wherein

R^7 and R^8 independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally

containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms; and

R^4 is hydrogen or lower alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 31 (Previously presented) A compound of the Formula (IC)



IC

wherein

R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NNHCONH_2$ or $-CONR^5R^6$, wherein

R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^2 is nitro or amino; and

R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or $-CONR^7R^8$ wherein

R^7 and R^8 independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 32 (Previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IA) defined in claim 29 wherein R^2 is amino; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 33 (Previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IB) defined in claim 30 wherein R^2 is amino; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 34 (Previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IC) defined in claim 31 wherein R^2 is amino; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 35 (Previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IB) defined in claim 30 wherein R^1 is methyl or cyano; R^2 is amino; R^3 is lower alkanoyl or $-CONR^7R^8$; R^7 is hydrogen; R^8 is lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, or lower cycloalkyl; and R^4 is hydrogen or methyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 36 and 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IC) defined in claim 31 wherein R^1 is methyl; R^2 is amino; R^3 is lower alkanoyl or $-CONR^7R^8$; R^7 is hydrogen; and R^8 is lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, or lower cycloalkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

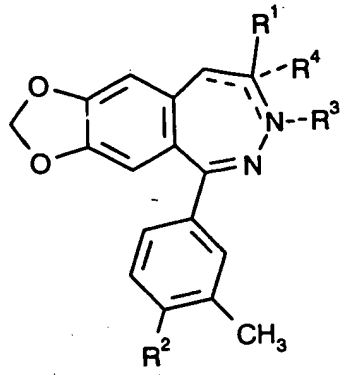
Claim 39 (Canceled)

Claim 40 (Previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IA) defined in claim 29 wherein R^1 is formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NNHCONH_2$ or $-CO-NR^5R^6$, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 41 (Previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IA) defined in claim 40 which is 5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-(semicarbazono-methyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-H][2,3}benzodiazepine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 42 through 48 (Canceled)

Claim 49 (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or amyotropic lateral sclerosis which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the Formula (I)



I

wherein

R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NNHCONH_2$ or $-CO-NR^5R^6$, wherein

R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^2 is nitro or amino;

R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or $-CONR^7R^8$ wherein

R^7 and R^8 independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with

the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen , sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^4 is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

the dotted lines have the following meanings:

if R^3 and R^4 are not present, the bond between positions C^8 and C^9 is a single bond, and the bond between positions C^8 and N^7 is a double bond;

if R^3 and R^4 are present, the bonds between positions C^8 and C^9 and between positions C^8 and N^7 are single bonds; and

if R^3 is present and R^4 is missing, the bond between positions C^8 and C^9 is a double bond and the bond between positions C^8 and N^7 is a single bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier.

Claim 50 (currently amended) A method of treating a mammalian subject in need of treatment for epilepsy, stroke, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or amyotropic lateral sclerosis which comprises the step of administering to said mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the Formula (I) as defined in claim 28.

Claims 51 through 54 (canceled)

Claim 55 (previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IB) defined in claim 35 which is 7-acetyl-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7, 8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 56 (previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IB) defined in claim 35 which is selected from the group consisting of:
5-(3-methyl-4-amino-phenyl)-7-propionyl-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-cyclopropyl-carbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-methoxy-carbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-(N-methyl-carbamoyl)-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-7-acetyl-8-cyano-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; and
5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-cyano-7-propionyl-7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

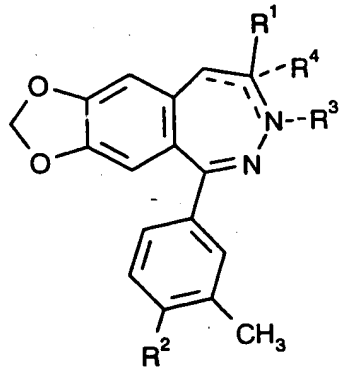
Claim 57 (previously presented) The compound of the Formula (IC) defined in claim 38 selected from the group consisting of:

7-acetyl-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-methyl-7H-1, 3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]-benzodiazepine;

7-(N-methyl-carbamoyl)-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]-benzodiazepine; and

7-(N-cyclopropyl-carbamoyl)-5-(4-amino-3-methyl-phenyl)-8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 58 (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (I)



I

wherein

R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NNHCONH_2$ or $-CO-NR^5R^6$, wherein

R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated

heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^2 is nitro or amino;

R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or $-CONR^7R^8$ wherein

R^7 and R^8 independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^4 is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

the dotted lines have the following meanings:

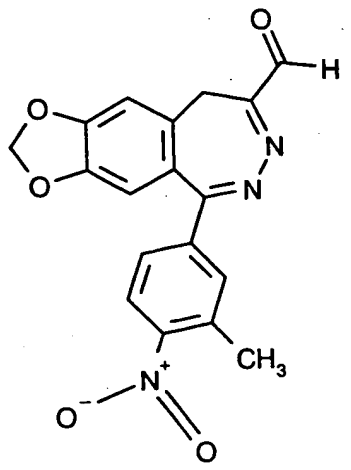
if R^3 and R^4 are not present, the bond between positions C^8 and C^9 is a single bond, and the bond between positions C^8 and N^7 is a double bond;

if R^3 and R^4 are present, the bonds between positions C^8 and C^9 and between positions C^8 and N^7 are single bonds; and

if R^3 is present and R^4 is missing, the bond between positions C^8 and C^9 is a double bond and the bond between positions C^8 and N^7 is a single bond;

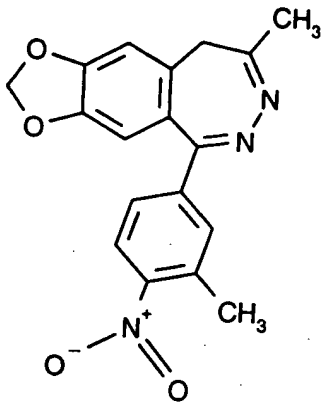
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; which comprises:

a) for the preparation of 8-formyl-5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h]-[2,3]benzodiazepine of the Formula (III)



III

oxidizing 8-methyl-5-(4-nitro-3-methyl-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine of the Formula (II)

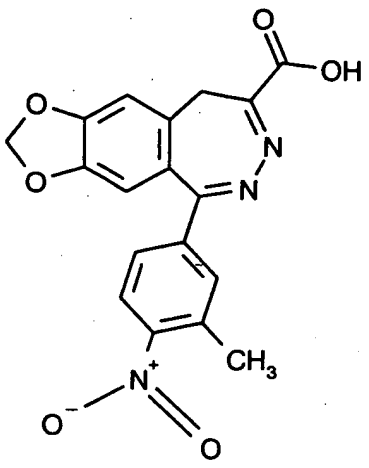


II

or

b) for the preparation of

5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine-8-carboxylic acid of the Formula (IV)



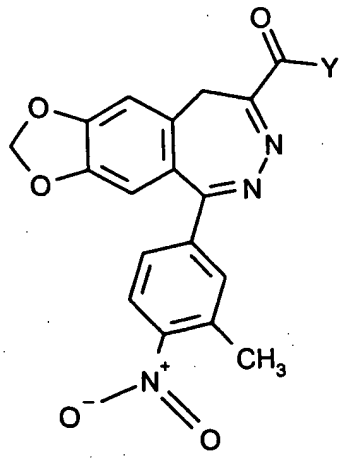
IV

oxidizing the

8-formyl-5-(3-methyl-4-nitro-phenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo[4,5-h][2,3]benzodiazepine;

or

c) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (V)

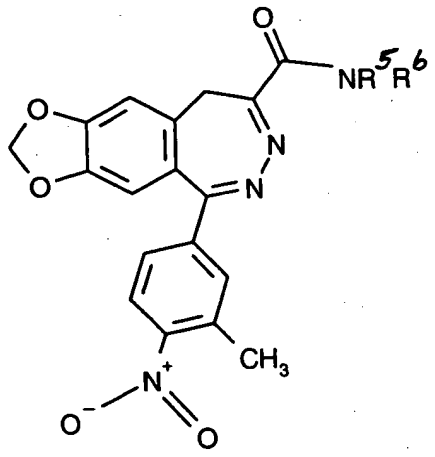


V

wherein Y is a leaving group, reacting the compound of the Formula IV with a compound capable of introducing group Y;

or

d) for the preparation of the compound of the Formula (VI)

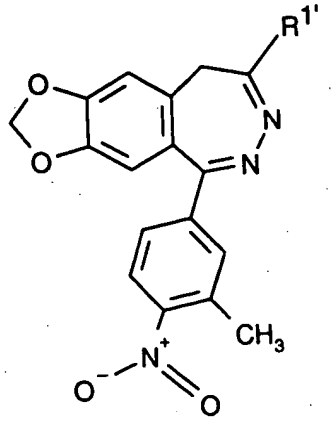


VI

wherein R^5 and R^6 are as defined above, reacting the carboxylic acid of the Formula (IV) or a reactive derivative thereof of the Formula (V) with an amine of the Formula HNR^5R^6;

or

e) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (VII)

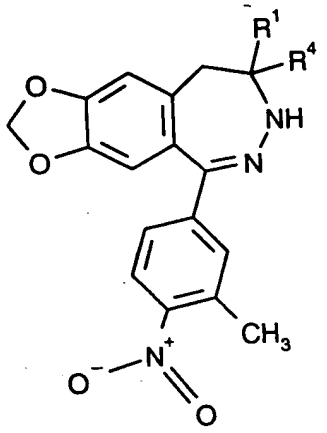


VII

wherein R^1 is cyano, -CH=NOH or -CH=NNHCONH$_2$, converting in the compound of the Formula (III) the formyl group into an R^1 group;

or

f) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (VIII)

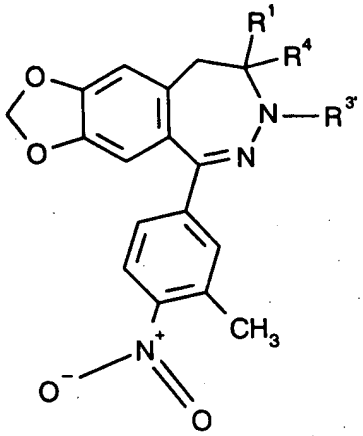


VIII

saturating the C^8-N^7 double bond of the compound of the Formula (VII) by addition or reduction;

or

g) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (IX)

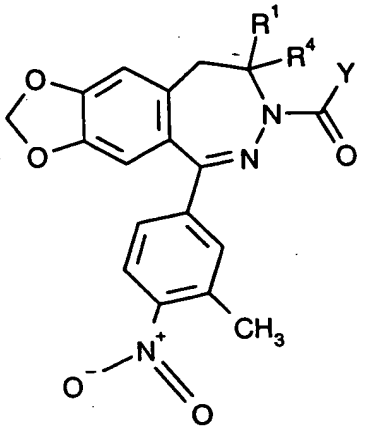


IX

wherein R^3 is lower alkanoyl), reacting a compound of the Formula (VIII) with a compound capable of introducing a lower alkanoyl group;

or

h) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (X)

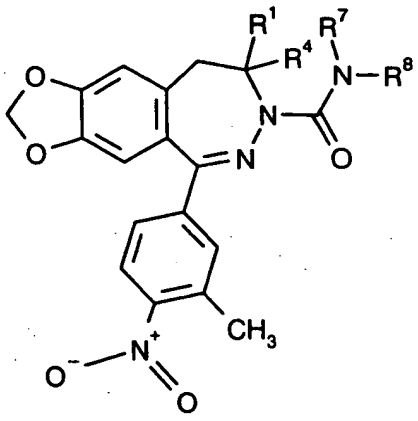


X

wherein Y is a leaving group and R^1 and R^4 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the Formula (VIII) with a compound capable of introducing the -COY group;

or

i) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (XI)

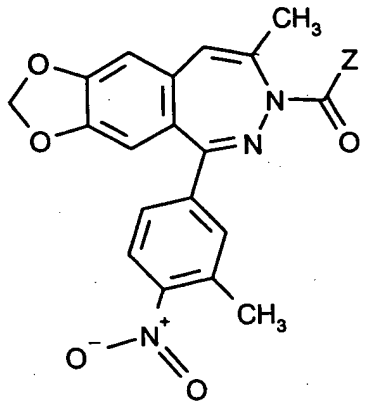


XI

wherein R^1, R^4, R^7 and R^8 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the Formula (X) or the corresponding free carboxylic acid thereof with an amine of the Formula HNR^7R^8;

or

j) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (XII)

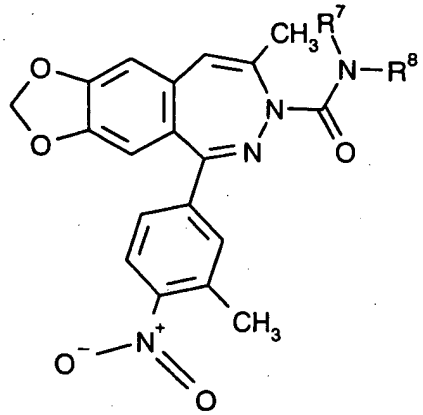


XII

wherein Z is a leaving group, reacting the compound of the Formula (II) with a compound capable of introducing the -COZ group;

or

k) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (XIII)



XIII

wherein R^7 and R^8 are as stated above, reacting a compound of the Formula (XII) with an amine of the Formula HNR^7R^8;
or

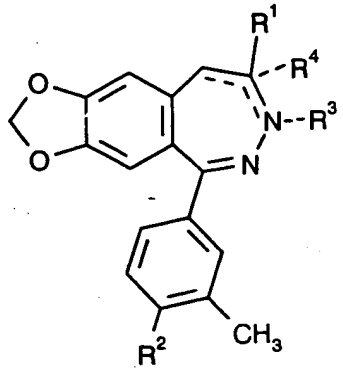
1) for the preparation of a compound of the Formula (I), wherein R^2 is amino, reducing the corresponding compound of the Formula (I), wherein R^2 is nitro; and, if desired, converting a compound of the Formula (I) into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof or setting free a compound of the Formula (I) from a salt.

Claim 59 (previously presented) Process according to process 1) defined in Claim 58 which comprises reducing as the compound of the Formula (I), a compound of the Formulae (II), (VII), (IX), (XI), (XII) or (XIII).

Claim 60 (previously presented) Process according to Claim 59 which comprises carrying out the reduction by using stannous (II) chloride, sodium dithionite or by means of catalytic hydrogenation.

Claim 61 (previously presented) Process according to Claim 60 in which the reduction is carried out by catalytic hydrogenation and which comprises using a Raney-nickel, palladium or platinum catalyst, and a hydrogen source selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydrazine, hydrazine hydrate, formic acid, trialkyl ammonium formate and an alkali formate.

Claim 62 (previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of the Formula (I)



I

wherein

R^1 is methyl, formyl, carboxy, cyano, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NNHCONH_2$ or $-CO-NR^5R^6$, wherein

R^5 and R^6 independently from each other are hydrogen or lower alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^2 is amino;

R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl, or $-CONR^7R^8$ wherein

R^7 and R^8 independently from each other are hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, or lower cycloalkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered, saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring optionally

containing one or more further nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen atoms;

R^4 is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

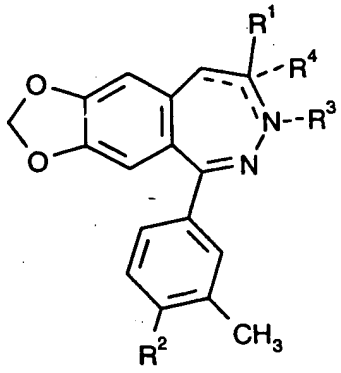
the dotted lines have the following meanings:

if R^3 and R^4 are not present, the bond between positions C^8 and C^9 is a single bond, and the bond between positions C^8 and N^7 is a double bond;

if R^3 and R^4 are present, the bonds between positions C^8 and C^9 and between positions C^8 and N^7 are single bonds; and

if R^3 is present and R^4 is missing, the bond between positions C^8 and C^9 is a double bond and the bond between positions C^8 and N^7 is a single bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; which comprises the step of reducing a compound of the Formula (I)



I

wherein

R^2 is nitro and R^1, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8 and the dotted lines are as defined above

with stannous (II) chloride, sodium dithionite or by catalytic hydrogenation.